THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 16, NO. 4 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1996

DNR Reports... by Glenn Therres

"Belt Woods is Saved" proclaimed the bumper sticker Governor Parris Glendening had made for his press conference on June 13th. At the press conference held at Belt Woods in Prince George's County, the Governor announced that the state had reached an agreement to purchase the remainder of the Belt Woods property, thus saving it from development.

DNR has owned the 109 acres of old growth forest on the south end of the former W. Seton Bell property since 1984. This forest is over 200 years old and contains one of the highest densities of breeding forest birds in the eastern United States. Chan Robbins has been monitoring the bird population here for nearly 50 years. Managed by DNR as a Natural Environmental Area, this forest tract was designated as one of the state's Wildlands in 1986. The area is closed to public access, except by permit only. Such permits are only approved for scientific studies.

The remaining 515 acres of the W. Seton Bell property is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. Roughly half of the property is forested and the other half is in fields. A 53-acre tract of forest in the northeast corner of the property is another old growth forest that was selectively logged a number of years ago. There are approximately 84 acres of nontidal wetlands on the site. This property helps buffer the main Belt Woods from surrounding suburbia and from the amusement park up the road. The forests on the church property maintain a vital link between the main Belt Woods and the floodplain forests nearby, thus keeping the bird population from becoming isolated.

The diocese decided to develop the property so it could raise funds needed to support the retired members of its clergy. The original 1988 development plan called for 1,030 housing units on the property. This raised considerable concern and alarm within the environmental community. By 1990 the original developer withdrew and Trustees for the diocese took over the development project. A task force was formed to provide advice on how to develop the property with minimal impacts to the birds and environment. Various DNR staff were included on the task force. Over time, the amount of housing units was reduced to half that which was originally proposed, with the majority to be built in the fields on the property. It was still questionable if this could keep adverse impacts to Belt Woods from occurring.

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1996 Annual Meeting Pronounced a Roaring Success

by Mary Byers

On the weekend of June 7, 8 and 9, the Baltimore Bird Club played host to birders from around the world at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society. Yes, participants came from around the **world**. One participant came all the way from Guatemala just to join our fun!

The University of Maryland Baltimore Campus (UMBC) rolled out the welcome mat for the membership—doing everything they could to help all guests enjoy their stay. They even took over registration on Friday evening so that all members could attend the dinner and keynote speech. There was always someone available to dim lights, deliver messages, reset rooms and set up tables as needed. The UMBC people couldn't have done a better job.

The circular campus, with its easy access to I95 and I695, proved to be a winning combination, and field trips flowed out in all directions. The general directions to most of the field trip locations, which were included in the registration packet, seemed to be greatly appreciated by the out-of-town participants, as was the large area map which hung next to the sign-up sheets.

Two hundred and thirty registrants participated in approximately 40 field trips that sent members from the borders of Pennsylvania to the Southern tip of Maryland at Point Lookout, from the Western edge of Howard County to the Chesapeake Bay, and from across the Loop Road to the 93 acres of woodland and ponds on the campus itself to the North Central Trail for biking.

One hundred and thirty-nine species of birds were identified during the weekend. Two of the most unusual were a Snow Goose at the Day's Cove area of the Gunpowder State Park and a Black Skimmer at North Point State Park, otherwise known as "Black Marsh." The Day's Cove area is normally closed to the public, but we were granted access for the weekend. Twenty-four species

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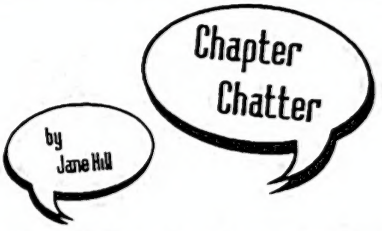

American Birding Association Meeting — Ten members of MOS (nine from Montgomery County and one from Washington County) attended the biennial meeting of the American Birding Association in Park City, Utah from June 17 to 23. Some 640 enthusiastic birders enjoyed 2-1/2 days of field trips and 2-1/2 days of workshops. Of the over 200 species of birds seen on the field trips, the highlights were Black Rosy Finch, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Chukar. Workshop topics included bird identification seminars, birding by ear, and "The Avian Eye" (how birds see). In 1998, the ABA will meet in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Distinguished Service Honors – At their annual meeting in April, the Anne Arundel Chapter awarded honorary life memberships to John and Helen Ford in recognition of their years of service to the Chapter and to the Maryland Ornithological Society.

Conservation Recognition – Anne Arundel Chapter recognized a member, John Schorpp, with the Chapter's 1996 Conservationist of

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THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT
Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Will Tress, 203 Gittings Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21212, (410) 433-1058 or at (800) 823-0050 (410-244-0032 in the Baltimore calling area). Will's e-mail address is:
WTress@ubmail.ubalt.edu.

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for theNovember/December 1996 issue are:

November-January Calendar Activities:
September 25, 1996

All Other Submissions:
October 1, 1996

The Deaths of Norma & Cameron Lewis

by Ann Mitchell

We are saddened to report the deaths of Cameron and Norma Lewis who have long been active members of MOS, especially since their deaths occurred so close together. Cam died April 16 and Norma followed on July 1, 1996.

Cam was an editor of *The Yellowthroat* in its early days and was Director from Washington County for several years. He also served in the local chapter as President and Treasurer for several terms, and was Christmas Count compiler and May Count Coordinator for many years. Cam was gentle and kind in dealing with people who knew less than he did about birds, always patient and helpful.

Norma was also very active in MOS and the Washington County Chapter. She served as President and Public Relations promoter and wrote a bimonthly column titled *My Corner of the World* for the Herald Mail Newspaper, which was full of delightful anecdotes about birds. Norma also gave informative and interesting lectures to garden clubs, Girl Scout troops and school children.

Norma and Cam were a delightful couple who enjoyed birding together. They were very supportive of birding activities locally and statewide. Each will be sorely missed.

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Chapter Chatter

will meet at the end of the day for a supper tally rally. Mike McClure can be reached at 410-531-2780.

Frederick County is planning its first annual Fall Migration Count on Saturday, September 21. Ian Cornelius, the coordinator, is preparing a checklist and a county map divided into the same sectors as the May Count. He can be reached at 301-371-4602 or 7321 Old Middletown Road, Middletown, MD 21769.

Birder Marks the Big 500 — Maureen Harvey, Carroll County Chapter president, logged in her 500th North American bird, a Clarke's Grebe, on June 26, at Lake Washoe, near Carson City, Nevada. Maureen has been working on her list for the last seven years. Earlier in the June trip, she and her husband, David, took a pelagic trip off San Francisco. Maureen had the perfect opportunity to surpass the 500 mark at that time, but she was so seasick she literally could not lift her binoculars to view Tricolored Blackbirds, Yellow Magpies, Tufted Puffins, or Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets.

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Chapter Chatter

the Year Award. John has coordinated conservation efforts at the Naval Antenna Facilities at Greenberry Point where 18 Ospreys nested in 1996.

Outstanding Student — Harford Chapter's own David Ziolkowski has distinguished himself at Towson State University in both 1995 and in 1996 by achieving the Outstanding Undergraduate Transfer Student Award and the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Student Award, respectively. Dave was awarded the 1996 research award based on his work with Dr. Scott Johnson on House Wrens in Wyoming last summer. Additionally, he presented his findings at the Wilson Ornithological Society meeting at Cape May, New Jersey last April. This summer Dave is working with Dr. Richard T. Holmes of Dartmouth College at the Hubbard Brook Research Station in New England.

New Birder Sighting – Congratulations to David and Marsha Webb of the Harford Chapter on the birth of their son, Daniel Clayton, on June 3, 1996. Daniel weighed in at 8.14 lbs at birth, and rumor has it that his parents cannot wait until Danny becomes coordinated enough to support his own weight on the trails.

Hawk Watching in Allegany County — Last fall, Jim Paulus of the Allegany County Chapter spent 75 days and 369 hours from August 21 to November at the Hawk Watch on Town Hill Overlook. During the season, Jim and other birders tallied over 4,000 individuals from 15 different raptor species. Some highlights were: 466 Tundra Swans on November 8; a Mississippi Kite on August 27; 462 Broad-winged Hawks on September 19, 11 Golden Eagles on November 8; 70 Common Loons on November 24; and 195 Evening Grosbeaks on November 3.

To join Jim on a Saturday or Sunday during September and October, take Rt. 68W to the Town Hill - Little Orleans Exit. The Town Hill Overlook is across the street from the Town Hill Hotel. The Allegany County Chapter will be there on Saturday, September 14.

Fall Migration Counts — The Allegany Chapter was the first chapter to inaugurate Fall Migration Counts. This year the Chapter will take to the field on Saturday, September 14. Call Gwen Brewer at 301-689-1150 for information. Allegany's good experiences for over five years have encouraged other chapters to put this event on the calendar.

Howard County is planning its third annual Fall Count for Saturday, September 21. Birders

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1996 Annual Meeting

of warblers and all the possible swallow species were also reported. Fourteen brave souls withstood the shifting sands and 90 degree plus heat at Hart-Miller Island on Saturday and were rewarded with a nice list of shorebirds.

The much awaited talk by Peter Dunne, the Director of the Cape May Bird Observatory in Cape May, New Jersey, was the highlight of Friday evening, although it was really hard to top the buffet dinner of London broil and fresh grilled tuna! The topic of Peter's talk was *Small-headed Flycatcher Seen Yesterday, but not Tomorrow.* The audience wandered the back roads of New Jersey with Peter as he told his *true (?) story.* Peter was even kind enough to hang around the book store to sign copies of his many works and chat with MOS members.

The raffle and silent auction were a great success thanks to the many generous members and organizations who donated items. Prizes for the raffle included a spotting scope, binoculars, a handmade quilt, a "Bud" Taylor signed print, a bird feeder and stand, a bird statue and a gift certificate good at the Wild Bird Center. The spotting scope and binoculars were donated by the winners, Chan Robbins and John Malcolm, to Marco Cerezo, the Director of FUNDAECO, the environmental conservation program MOS has supported in Guatemala. A combined total of $1,948.50 was brought in this year, with the silent auction making over $1,300 itself, the most money ever collected! The proceeds will be donated to the restoration of the C&O Canal in the name of all MOS members.

For those of you who did not make the Conference, you missed a good time! The weather was dry, but a bit hot, the food was good, and the friendships renewed or made anew truly made the conference a success.

On a personal note, I have to give a huge thank you to all the Baltimore Bird Club and MOS members who volunteered to help "do anything," who pitched in whenever things needed done, who stood by and helped calm my nerves by saying , "No matter what happens, people will have a good time," and who in general offered suggestions, ideas, and elbow grease without being asked. I certainly had people "do anything" and although things did happen, nothing could ruin the good time had by all. As I stated in the Conference brochure, no one person runs a MOS Conference on their own, and I was no exception. THANK YOU.

Sanctuary Committee Report

by Dottie Mumford

Lola Oberman has resigned as distributor of the sanctuary signs for the MOS private sanctuary program. The Sanctuary Committee thanks Lola for the fine job she did over the last five years. Karen Morley of the Baltimore Chapter has graciously volunteered to replace Lola. Her address is 2719 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21218. Karen's home phone number is 410-235-4001, and her work number is 202-564-5132. If you would like to purchase sanctuary signs, please contact her. The signs are $5 each, plus $1 each for shipping.

Please remember that you are **required** to have reservations for overnight stays at Carey Run and Irish Grove Sanctuaries. To make reservations for Carey Run, contact Charlotte Folk, 179 Mount Pleasant St., Frostburg, MD 21532, 201-689-6587. For Irish Grove, contact Shirley Taylor, 308 N. Boulevard, Salisbury, MD 21801, 410-546-4717.

Two Spring workdays were successfully held in April. One was held at Irish Grove and the other at Carey Run. The Committee thanks all who continue to come and help maintain these sanctuaries. Workdays for the coming year are October 26 and 27, 1996 and April 5 and 6, 1997, for Irish Grove. For Carey Run, workdays will be held on April 26 and 27, 1997.

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DNR Reports . . .

The efforts of the citizens groups involved in trying to save Belt Woods, lead by the Western Shore Conservancy and the Trust for Public Land, were intense. Various discussions took place over time with numerous government and conservation organizations in an effort to find someone willing to buy the property and keep it from being developed. All these efforts paid off.

The planned acquisition will take place later this year. Funds will come from a variety of sources. The largest amount of money will come from DNR Program Open Space funds, totaling $2.5 million. Another $500,000 will come from state funds earmarked for Belt Woods by the General Assembly. Prince George's County and the City of Bowie will each contribute $500,000, while another $500,000 will be raised by private conservation groups. Final disposition of the property is still being worked out, but my guess is that the property will be added to DNR's existing Natural Environmental Area. There is already a proposal to incorporate the property into the Wildlands System. A public hearing regarding this proposal is scheduled for 7 pm on September 17th at Bowie City Hall.

The efforts to keep the entire W. Seton Belt property in a natural state have been long and eventful, with lots of participants. For the birds and the environment, the final outcome seems appropriate.

Official Minutes of the MOS State Board of Directors
February 10, 1996

The meeting was called to order by Al Haury, President, at 10:10 AM. The following were in attendance:

President - Al Haury
Vice President - Bob Rineer
Treasurer - Jeff Metter
Secretary - Sybil Williams
Executive Secretary - Will Tress

Directors and Others:

Anne Arundel - Dotty Mumford, Phil Davis, Barbara Davis, Stephen Hult, Gerald Cotton, Barbara Ricciardi, Emily Joyce.

Baltimore - Terry Ross, Karen Morley, Sukon Kanchanaraksa, Leanne Pemburn, Joy Wheeler, Brent Byers, Mary Byers.

Cecil - Linda Bystrak, Ken Drier.

Harford - Thomas Congersky, Joseph Vangrin, Isa Sieracki, John Nack, Les Eastman, Mark Johnson.

Howard - Elaine Metter.

Jug Bay - Gary Flenner, Dale Johnson.

Montgomery - Fran Saunders, Norm Saunders, Bill Kulp, Gary Nelson, Lou DeMouy, Gloria Meade.

At Large - Dave Brinker.

There were six chapters with no representation: Allegany, Washington, Carroll, Caroline, Kent and Wicomico.

The President thanked the Harford Chapter for hosting the meeting. The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as corrected. The next meeting will be hosted by the Frederick Chapter. Committee reports are to be in 10 days prior to the Convention. We are re-enrolled with EFM. In 1994, we made $2100 to be used on conservation or education. It is not known yet how much we will make in 1995.

Vice President - No report.

Treasurer - $5800 has been sent to FUNDAECO.

Executive Secretary - Decals and the last three *Yellow Books* are available.

Slides were presented of the wildlands of Maryland. Of state owned lands, only 0.2% are wildlands. Write your Senator or Congressman to support Senate Bill 517 which will expand wildlands in the State. Wildlands can only be designated from State-owned lands. Please urge your legislators to support the whole package.

Audit - The new auditor is Jerry Cotton.

Budget - Please provide input into the budget.

Bylaws - No chairperson.

Conference - The 1997 Conference will be held in Ocean City, but a chairperson is needed. The 1996 Conference will be held at UMBC and Pete Dunne will be the major speaker.

Education - 7,000 acres of land in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, acquired through Keystone Grants, are called the Mason Dixon Greenway. Through Project Wild DNR has offered to teach teachers natural history. They are now taught environmental education without any natural history. The Environthon is a competition for his school students. They need field guides, help and funds. The students should contact Conservation Chairpersons in the MOS Chapters. The students can use frozen birds or posters for sale at wild bird stores. Only common birds will be used for the test. Please consider donating money to the Environthon since the Department of Education has no money for this. They will let students out of school to participate. Seventeen elementary schools exchange with South American schools. Ten out of sixteen chapter have received their $200. Partners in Flight promotes International Migratory Bird Day.

Gifts - No report.

Investments - No report.

Library - No report.

Research - A proposal has been made to study Saw-whet owls on Assateague Island.

Sanctuary - Irish Grove has work days April 13 and 14. Carey Run has work days April 27-28.

Atlas - At the printers.

County Lists - They will be out in the next *Yellowthroat*.

May Count - No report.

Nominations - Bob Rineer, Norm Saunders, and Jeff Metter.

Publications - September is out. December and March are in progress.

Calendar - *The Yellowbook* will be republished. Updated sanctuary booklet will be out in September.

Records - The committee is trying to reconcile their records with *The Yellowbook*. They would like some suggestions for storing their records.

Old Business - Listing an e-mail address is a personal choice.

New Business - Fran Saunders has volunteered to provide a state-level web page for MOS. An Ad Hoc C&O Canal Restoration Committee has been formed. They have $2,000,000 and they need $20,000,000. Send money to National Park Foundation, C&O Canal. There is a restoration web site. The money from the raffle at the convention will go to the C&O Canal.

Long Range Planning - A committee is needed for statewide publicity.

Partners in Flight is considering passing out business cards with MOS or other groups on it to promote Ecotourism.

Jerry Weingrad of Anne Arundel County is promoting the American Bird Conservancy. It is a natural history group that deals with bird conservation in American and the Caribbean. Dues are $150 a year. He wants endorsement from MOS. Also, he wants it incorporated in the State Education Committee, starting in Anne Arundel County. A motion was made to join the ABC. The motion was voted on and accepted. There will be two delegates for three meetings a year. The participants will be reimbursed for gas and parking while attending the meetings.

Respectfully submitted:
Sybil Williams, MOS Secretary

The 1997 Conference Pin Design Contest

by John Malcolm

The Conference Committee invites you to enter the 1997 Pin Design Contest. The rules are:

- The bird featured must be appropriate for the conference site, Ocean City (i.e., no roadrunners).
- The design shall include the phrases "MOS" and "1997"
- Submissions shall be rendered in color.
- Artists may not use others' work, or copyrighted material.
- Submissions shall not be framed or matted.
- The artist's name should not appear on the front of the entry.
- Artists may submit up to three designs for any one contest.
- Entrants must be members of MOS.
- The deadline for entries is December 31, 1996.
- Entries should be sent to:
  John Malcolm
  10205 Kindly Court
  Montgomery Village, MD 20879

GUIDELINES

- Designs should be clearly depicted, simple, uncluttered, and complete. The pin will be less than two inches; small details and complicated backgrounds don't reduce well. Bold, simple designs are best.
- The manufacturer has a limited color palette; artists should consider birds with "common" colors. (Note the color rendition of the "olive" back of the yellowthroat for 1991.)
- Avoid shading or small patches of color. The pins are cloisonné, and each color change is bordered by a brass line. (The background in the original design for 1994 was shaded from dark green to light green; the pin company could only produce one shade.)
- Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol, in any medium, and at least five inches across (but not larger than 9 X 12 inches).
- The shape of the pin doesn't matter; the manufacturer can produce any shape we want.
- Artists need not depict the entire bird (note the 1988 shrike).
- The contest will be judged by an impartial jury of birders and artists. No entrant can be a judge.
- Judges consider artistic merit, suitability of the species, and the attractiveness of the resultant pin.
- The jury's decision is final.
- The winner may be asked to make minor changes in the design before it is sent to the manufacturer.
- The manufacturer may have to make minor changes to accommodate the manufacturing process (note the solid background in the 1994 pin).
- Artwork will be returned to the artists, except for the winning design.
- Artists should put the name of the species depicted, as well as their name, address, telephone number, and chapter affiliation, on a separate sheet of paper. They should put only their name on the back of the entry (written small, in one corner). All identification will be covered before judging.
- Call John Malcolm with any questions, at (301) 977-5788.

Education Committee Report

by Linda Bystrak

June 9, 1996 was an important day for the Education Committee. We trust that it was even more important for Chan Robbins. At 2:30 p.m. over 130 MOS members, friends and relatives of Chan gathered together at the National Wildlife Visitors Center at Patuxent to celebrate Chan's 50 years of Federal service. We were about 6 months late, but it takes time to select the appropriate tribute and have it made. Even after 6 months of waiting our humble tributes were still not completed on time for the ceremony. However, we improvised at the ceremony, and used three facsimiles of the real signs/plaques; a sign about the effects of forest fragmentation for the nature trail, a brass plaque to be mounted on a granite rock dedicating the trail to Chan, and a second brass plaque on a another rock dedicating the woodlot on the research center where Chan did so many of his bird studies. No one seemed to mind that we used substitute plaques for the ceremony, which also gave us a good excuse to abandon the planned outdoor ceremony at the trail head and have the event in the air conditioned comfort of the visitors center.

Dr. James Kushlan, Director of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center was our master of ceremonies, with our newly elected MOS President Bob Rineer at his side. Bob unveiled the brass plaque that dedicated the trail to Chan, and Dr. Kushlan unveiled the trail sign and the plaque for the woodlot. Following their presentations, Marco Cerezo from Guatemala also made a presentation on behalf of FUNDAECO. He presented a plaque to Chan to commemorate FUNDAECO's having named their new research lab in Cerro San Gil in his honor. Chan's acceptance speech was very positive and even included a short commentary about some of the famous naturalists that had enriched his life, and how supportive his co-workers, friends and family had been throughout his career. Homemade refreshments followed the ceremony, and a room full of people talked as they waited their turn to personally congratulate Chan. Everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion!

Our fiberglass trail sign looks very nice, and was made by GS Images in Hagerstown, MD. As committee chairperson for this event I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who worked to make the event a success. They include: Dr. Mike Irwin from the Research Center who made all the arrangements for the plaques and sign, designed the trail sign, and assisted in planning the cer-

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Education Committee Report

emony. Barbara Dowell, also from the Research Center who assisted Mike with the sign design, created a guest list, and helped plan the ceremony. Nell Baldacchino, from the Visitors Center who worked with us on planning the ceremony and press releases. Dr. Kushlan, Bob Rineer, and Marco Cerezo for making the presentations. Gloria Meade, Joy Wheeler and Paul Bystrak (all from MOS) and Paul Sr. and Amelia Bystrak for assisting with the refreshments. Also, thanks to Joanne Solem for helping in the search for suitable rocks! I wish I had the space to share the story about the "great rock hunt". Only someone else who has tried to find large, 2 ton rocks suitable for supporting brass plaques can sympathize with this task!

In other news, the Cecil Co. chapter of MOS has a new homepage. To access it the URL is http://clab.cecil.cc.md.us/county/mos/main.htm It includes links to other MOS homepages, chapter newsletters, a county checklist for birds, information about a new hummingbird organization, etc. The page was created by 16 year old Karl Bystrak with the guidance of Gary Griffith.

1996-97 Officers of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

(800) 823-0050 - voicemail

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Vice-President:	Norm Saunders	1261 Cavendish Drive, Colesville, MD 20905	(301) 989-9035
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Exec. Secretary:	Will Tress	203 Gittings Ave., Baltimore, MD 21212	(410) 433-1058
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Audit:	Gerald Cotton	1739 Trent St., Crofton, MD 21114	(410) 721-5258
Budget:	Emily D. Joyce	816 Oak Trail, Crownsville, MD 21032	(410) 923-6053
Bylaws:	Tom Loomis	11502 Allview Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705	(301) 937-2257
Conference:	Lou DeMouy	8809 Altimont Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815	(301) 656-3146
Conference coordinators:	Charles & Gail Vaughn	1306 Frederick Ave., Salisbury, MD 21801	(410) 742-7221
Conservation:	Richard J. Dolesh	17800 Croom Rd., Brandywine, MD 20613	(301) 627-2270 -day (301) 579-2256-eve
Education:	Linda Bystrak	6 Deer Ct., Elkton, MD 21921	(410) 392-5621
Gifts:	Richard Cleveland	19108 N. Pike Creek Pl., Gaithersburg, MD 20879	(301) 926-7109
Investments:	Ralph Geuder	5219 Talbot's Landing, Ellicott City, MD 21043	(410) *********
Library:	Joy Wheeler	531 Hampton Lane, Towson, MD 21204	(410) 825-1204
Long-range planning:	Joanne Solem	10617 Graeloch Rd., Laurel, MD 20723	(301) 725-5037
Research:	David F. Brinker	1200 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228	(410) 744-3246 -eve
Sanctuary:	Dorothy Mumford	1900 Generals Hwy, Annapolis, MD 21401	(410) 849-8336
Scholarships:	Isa Sieracki	792 Everist Drive, Aberdeen, MD 21001	(410) 273-6201
		Other Committees and Projects	
Atlas:	John Malcolm	10205 Kindly Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20879	(301) 977-5788
Cavity-nesting:	Chuck Dupree	6002 Hunt Club Rd., Elkridge, MD 21227	(410) 796-1086
County Lists:	Phil Davis	2549 Vale Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035	(301) 261-0184
Mailing list:	William Guion	8007 Martown Rd., Laurel, MD 20723	(301) 490-0444
May Count:	LeAnne Pemburn	2617 Guilford Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218	(410) 467-4737
Season Reports:	Dan & Linda Southworth	9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, MD 21046	(301) 490-5648
Nominations:	Ann Mitchell	3701 Clear Run Pl., Rohrersville, MD 21779	(301) 432-2021
Publications:	Chandler S. Robbins	Migratory Bird Research Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20811	(301) 498-0281
Yellowthroat:	Norm Saunders	1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905	(202) 606-5723 -day (301) 989-9035 -eve
Calendar:	Les Eastman	4034 Wilkinson Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078	(410) 671-3490 -day (410) 734-6969 -eve
Records:	Phil Davis	2549 Vale Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035	(301) 261-0184
Env. Fund Liaison:	Jay Jones	5609 Granby Rd., Derwood, MD 20855	(301) 840-9405 x285
		Chapter Presidents	
Allegany:	Gwen Brewer	4 N. Mt. Vernon St., Frostburg, MD 21532	(301) 689-1150
Anne Arundel:	Steve Hult	7 WInslow Ct., Annapolis, MD 21403	(410) 263-8095
Baltimore:	Sukon Kanchanaraksa	6103 Pimlico Rd, Baltimore, MD 21209	(410) 358-5920
Caroline:	Danny Poet	P.O. Box 223, Queenstown, MD 21658	
Carroll:	Maureen Harvey	302 Chelsea Ct., Sykesville, MD 21784	(410) 795-3117
Cecil:	Gary Griffith	55 Sarah Drive, Elkton, MD 21921	(410) 392-4491
Frederick:	Wilbur Hershberger	9093 Fox Ridge Dr., Union Bridge, MD 21791	(301) 898-9088
Harford:	Mark Johnson	3204 Bryson Ct., Baldwin, MD 21013	(410) 692-5978
Howard:	Maud Banks	6666 Downdale Pl., Columbia, MD 21045	(410) 381-3240
Jug Bay:	Michael Callahan	2713 Neman Ct., Bowie, MD 20716	(301) 390-1182
Kent:	Clara Ann Simmons	105 Ryan Ct., Chestertown, MD 21620	(410) 778-2483
Montgomery:	Lydia Schindler	13621 Esworthy Rd., Darnestown, MD 20874	(301) 977-5252
Patuxent:	Tom Loomis	11502 Allview Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705	(301) 937-2257
Talbot:	Elizabeth Lawlor	P.O. Box 217, Royal Oak, MD 21662	(410) 745-6039
Washington:	David Weesner	6620 Monument Rd., Middletown, MD 21769	(301) 432-7718
Wicomico:	Linda Hardman/ Wm Jones	23178 Edelen Webster, Deal Island, MD 21821	(410) 784-2403

Winter in the Lower Rio Grande Valley

by Guy Hodge

There are few more exciting winter destinations than the region of South Texas known as the "Lower Valley." Regular inhabitants of the area paralleling the Rio Grande River from Brownsville west to San Ygnacio include Green and Brown Jay, Plain Chachalaca, Great Kiskadee, Audubon's and Altmira Orioles, Green and Ringed Kingfisher, Least Grebe, and Olivacious Cormorant. A week in South Texas should produce a trip list that exceeds 200 species and birders visiting the area for the first time can expect to add thirty birds to their U.S. life list.

Visiting birders who rent an automobile in Dallas or Houston quickly discover that the state is as big as its reputation. Its a 350 mile drive from Houston Intercontinental Airport to Brownsville. A commercial airline flight from Houston to the Lower Valley will add as little as $50 to the price of an airline ticket. Harlingen offers the greatest selection of scheduled flights to Southeastern Texas. The airport is served by Southwest and Continental Airlines, but Southwest flights depart from Houston Hobby Airport which is across town from the main airport.

Your travel route through the Lower Valley will depend on the length of your stay in the region. The essential birding stops on a visit to the Lower Valley are Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park. Most visiting birders use McAllen as their base. The city is convenient to both locations and offers a selection of motels and restaurants that will satisfy every birder's preferences. It is useful to compare motel room rates since some of the most modern and cleanest establishments offer the lowest prices. As a precaution, when parking, don't leave your luggage or birding gear in view—it may vanish while you are away from the vehicle.

There are no restaurants in the vicinity of either the refuge or state park and the local convenience stores stock a limited selection of snacks. Many birders stock up on food and beverages at a McAllen supermarket before heading into the field. The Iron Skillet restaurant in downtown McAllen is open 24 hours a day, making it possible for birders to eat breakfast and still get an early start on the day's activities.

Santa Ana NWR has been called the "crown jewel of the national wildlife refuge system." The access road does not open until 7:00 a.m., but visitors are permitted to enter the property on foot. It is a short hike to prime birding spots. Your tour should begin with a stop at the visitor's center. Ask the staff person on duty for complimentary copies of the bird checklists both for the refuge and the State of Texas. The publications are stored behind the reception desk. Before leaving the center, review the log of recent bird sightings. Reports of the most recent sights are spread by word of mouth among visiting birders. In this refuge not everyone with expensive binoculars is an experienced birder so don't be discouraged if the first people you encounter say that they haven't seen any unusual birds.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird may be found at the trailhead adjacent to the visitor's center. A series of short trails lead to the refuge's prime birding sites, including Willow Lake. Within the first 30 minutes of walking, you should see at least ten target species, including Least Grebe and Great Kiskadee. Two observation decks afford excellent views of the lake. The deck on the northeastern shore is an elaborate bird blind that affords close views of waterbirds. The Green Kingfisher is one of the more elusive of the regular avian residents, but it can often be found on a branch overhanging the small pond just east of the lake. Listen for the bird's call which sounds like a Geiger counter.

While more difficult to spot, the land birds of Santa Ana are as exciting as their aquatic relatives. If you walk slowly, scan for movement, and listen carefully—there is a good chance of encountering a rarity such as a Clay-colored Robin, Blue Bunting, or Hook-billed Kite. Plan to spend most of the day at the refuge. Some birders rush back to McAllen in late afternoon and drive the north end of town in search of parrot roosts. The birds are scarce or absent in Winter. Unless you have a reliable report of a recent sighting or enjoy quixotic adventures, there are more productive ways to spend your time.

Bentsen Rio Grande Valley State Park may be the best spot in the contiguous 48 states for finding rare birds. The park gate is closed at night, but in the morning the staff usually begins admitting visitors about 30 minutes before the posted opening time. A loop road circles the campground and many guests set out bird feeders. As you drive the road you will probably observe Plain Chachalaca, Audubon's Oriole, and White-tipped Dove. A way station for birders was recently installed along the road. This spot, which features a picnic table, literature rack, and bird feeding station, is a good place to start your visit. Review the log book for news of recent bird sightings. Across the road, a short trail leads to a recently installed bird blind. Dripping water attracts birds to the site. This was the spot frequented by a male Blue Bunting and a Quail Dove last Winter.

Some of the best birding areas in the park are along the banks of the river. Few paths lead to the river, so be prepared for trailblazing your way through the tall, dense vegetation. Travel with caution—this section of the river is used by international smugglers to transport everything from drugs to exotic birds. As you walk around the park you should discover such birds as Long-billed Thrasher.

At dusk, Common Pauraques venture onto the road. Slowly drive the park roads, scanning the shoulders for the glint of the birds' eyes shining in your headlights. If the birds aren't seen along the paved roads, exit the park and turn right onto the dirt road that parallels the canal.

Approximately 55 miles west of McAllen is the town of Salineno where a small colony of Winter residents has established a feeding station spread out across several acres. En route, obey the posted speed limits! Police often set radar traps near town limits. The feeders in Salineno are frequented by Brown Jays, Altmira Orioles, and Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. Visitors are encouraged to sit in a patio chair and join with the local residents in observing the bird activity. At the end of the street is a section of the Rio Grande River where wild Muscovy Ducks have regularly been seen. In the past two years, however, the birds have become scarce. If you have never visited the desert southwest, you'll want to take the back road out of town. Stop at half-mile intervals to look for birds such as Verdin and Curve-billed Thrasher.

Just west of Salineno is Falcon Dam, which may be the best publicly accessible site for Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl in Texas. The trail below the dam can be difficult to follow to the site favored by the owl. Be certain to obtain precise directions from a local birder. As you hike along the hillside, scan the bank of the river for Red-billed Pigeons. You'll want to set out early since it is difficult to find the owl once it stops calling at about 10:00 a.m.

Upon leaving the dam, if you continue driving west you'll immediately enter a 20-mile stretch of road where Crested Caracara is common. Continue driving west for another forty miles until you reach the turn-off for San Ygnacio. When the road dead ends,

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The Itinerant Birder

walk down the embankment and search the tall grasses for White-collared Seedeater.

From this western terminus of your travels, you can backtrack directly to Harlingen or make several brief detours to sites that offer the promise of adding more birds to your trip and life lists. For several years a Tropical Kingbird has wintered on a small track of the Santa Ana NWR located on the north side of highway 281 near Progreso. Grooved-billed Anis have been seen in the roadside hedges on the refuge track, but the birds are rare in Winter. The road to Progreso can be rewarding when the field northeast of town is flooded. When conditions are right, the site attracts waterfowl and shorebirds including both species of Whistling-Ducks.

If your schedule permits, you'll want to pay a visit to the famous Brownsville Mexican Crow sanctuary, properly known as the municipal landfill. Nearby, Palm Grove Sanctuary is maintained by the Audubon Society. Most of the resident birds will be easy to find at other locales on your itinerary. The other popular birding spot in the Lower Valley is Laguna Atascasco National Wildlife Refuge in Rio Hondo. Rose-throated Becard is occasionally seen at the refuge. Since the refuge is near the airport in Harlingen, this is a good place to spend your final afternoon or morning in the Lower Valley. Birders with a few extra hours to spare while waiting for their return flights sometimes drive north on highway 77. This road traverses an area known as "Hawk Alley." White-tailed Hawks are among the buteos that can be seen atop fence posts and telephone poles. Tropical Parulas are observed with surprising frequency at the first rest stop along the highway.

A birding tour affords an economical way to explore South Texas, but most of the professional guides who lead these tours do not reside in the Lower Valley. They rely on the same birding reports that any individual can obtain by telephoning the local rare bird alert or speaking with other birders encountered during visits to local parks and refuges. There are a few resident birding guides who do offer economically priced guide services for walks or canoe float trips down the Rio Grande River. Whether you decide to bird at your own pace or join an organized tour group, your first day afield will reveal why most birdwatchers rank the Lower Rio Grande Valley among the three premiere birding locales in the contiguous United States.

Maryland County Birds: the Next Ten

by Rick Blom

With the publication of the third edition of the Field List of the Birds of Maryland (Maryland Avifauna Number 2, Maryland Ornithological Society, May 1996), it is now possiible for Maryland birders to easily see which birds have occurred in each couty. It is also easy to see which birds have not occurred.

Those of us who have kept county lists for many years find the question of which birds have not occurred intriguing. Which birds are overdue in a given county? Which counties are going to find it hard to add birds to the list?

What follows is my admittedly biased predictions of the next ten birds most likely to show up in each Maryland county. I constructed the lists from the new Maryland Field List, choosing from among those birds that have already occurred in the state. Not choosing any birds that have not yet been found in the state created a problem in only one county - Worcester. The Worcester list is the largest by far and finding ten birds that have been found in the state and not in the county was difficult. A more logical Worcester list would undoubtedly include several new state species, including Black-capped Petrel, Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, Eurasian Collared Dove, and Shiny Cowbird. For consistency, however, I chose to treat Worcester as I did the other counties. Guessing which ten species are the next to be found in the state is a different exercise. I combined the lists for Worcester and the list for Pelagic in the Field List. Although there are a few people who reject the notion that the county list extends beyond the three-mile limit, all birds seen offshore have been historically treated as occurring in Worcester County. For the purpose of these lists, I have done the same.

I treated the information in the Field List as gospel. If there is any symbol for the species in the box for any county (even a question mark), I treated it as having already occurred. This eliminated needing to act as a one person adjudication panel, an onerous and impractical task.

The birds appear on the lists in taxonomic order, not in the order of likelihood. Picking ten is speculative enough, predicting which of the ten will be first is folly.

Looking at the lists, certain patterns emerge. Counties with large nnumbers of birders have longer lists and the likelihood of new species is more remote. Look at the lists for Baltimore and Montgomery counties as examples.

Inland counties tend to have a lot of waterbirds on the lists of expected additions, a reflection of the amount of habitat available.

Some of the choices seem to be off-the-wall. Those choices reflect my own perception of potential patterns of occurrence. For example, Alder Flycatcher undoubtedly occurs in every Maryland county every year. The fact that they are not yet recorded in some counties reflects the extraordinary difficulty in identification of migrants, especially in the Fall. The appearance of Rufous Hummingbird and Painted Bunting on some lists reflects the dramatic increase in the number of reports in recent years. Black-bellied Whistling Duck is on a couple of lists because it has been showing up throughout the East in recent years, and those counties already have large lists. In fact, it could show up anywhere.

You may find a bird on one of the lists that you have seen in the county in question. It is on this list because the information was not available to the authors at the time of publication of the Field List. Please send these reports to Jim Stasz.

Finally, I do not pretend to be an expert in the birds, habitats, and birdwatching behavior in every county. You may well disagree with some of my choices, and you are as likely to be right as I am. This article is meant to spur speculation and disucussion and the lists are, at best, semi-informed guesses. The next bird to show up in your county is probably not on this list.

GARRETT
- Eared Grebe
- White Ibis
- Mississippi Kite
- King Rail
- Whimbrel
- Red Knot
- Sanderling
- Laughing Gull
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Hoary Redpoll

ALLEGANY
- Eared Grebe
- Eurasian Wigeon
- Black Scoter
- Swainson's Hawk
- Whimbrel
- Hudsonian Godwit
- Red Knot
- Great Black-backed Gull
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Lapland Longspur

WASHINGTON
- Swallow-tailed Kite
- Mississippi Kite
- King Rail
- Whimbrel
- Western Sandpiper
- Stilt Sandpiper
- Laughing Gull
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
- Yellow-headed Blackbird

FREDERICK
Eurasian Wigeon
Black Scoter
Swallow-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
Swainson's Hawk
American Avocet
Marbled Godwit
Red Knot
Western Kingbird
Hoary Redpoll

CARROLL
Mississippi Kite
Golden Eagle
American Avocet
Wilson's Phalarope
Snowy Owl
Chuck-will's-widow
Rufous Hummingbird
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow
Yellow-headed Blackbird

MONTGOMERY
Brown Pelican
Harlequin Duck
Swainson's Hawk
Black-necked Stilt
Red Knot
Franklin's Gull
Little Gull
Black-headed Gull
Rufous Hummingbird
Ash-throated Flycatcher

HOWARD
Great Cormorant
Willet
Whimbrel
Marbled Godwit
Ruddy Turnstone
Black-headed Gull
California Gull
Rufous Hummingbird
Western Kingbird
Painted Bunting

BALTIMORE
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Black-bellied Whistling Duck
White-fronted Goose
Common Eider
Mississippi Kite
Mew (Common) Gull
Arctic Tern
Rufous Hummingbird
Painted Bunting
Harris' Sparrow

HARFORD
Swallow-tailed Kite
American Avocet
Hudsonian Godwit
Willet
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Phalarope
Parasitic Jaeger
Sandwich Tern
Rufous Hummingbird
Northern Shrike

CECIL
Brant
Black Scoter
Surf Scoter
Whimbrel
Marbled Godwit
Red Knot
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Snowy Owl
Alder Flycatcher
Sedge Wren

PRINCE GEORGE'S
Eared Grebe
Northern Gannet
American Avocet
Black-necked Stilt
Red Knot
Gull-billed Tern
Sandwich Tern
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brewer's Blackbird
Hoary Redpoll

ANNE ARUNDEL
Western Grebe
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Ross' Goose
Barrow's Goldeneye
Arctic Tern
Rufous Hummingbird
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Common Raven
Brown-headed Nuthatch
LeConte's Sparrow

CALVERT
White Ibis
Eurasian Wigeon
Rough-legged Hawk
American Oystercatcher
Baird's Sandpiper
Franklin's Gull
Gull-billed Tern
Snowy Owl
Alder Flycatcher
Yellow-headed Blackbird

CHARLES
Brown Pelican
White Ibis
Golden Eagle
Sanderling
Long-billed Dowitcher
Iceland Gull
Sandwich Tern
Black Skimmer
Dickcissel
Snow Bunting

ST. MARY'S
Eared Grebe
Swallow-tailed Kite
Black-necked Stilt
Marbler Godwit
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher
Iceland Gull
Glaucous Gull
Rufous Hunningbird
Brewer's Blackbird

KENT
Eared Grebe
Brown Pelican
Ross' Goose
Swallow-tailed Kite
Mississippi Kite
American Avocet
Iceland Gull
Gull-Billed Tern
Black Skimmer
Rufous Hummingbird

QUEEN ANNE'S
Eared Grebe
Mississippi Kite
Northern Goshawk
Marbled Godwit
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Franklin's Gull
Gull-billed Tern
Sandwich Tern
Clay-colored Sparrow
Brewer's Blackbird

CAROLINE
urf Scoter
Black Scoter
Northern Gohawk
Golden Eagle
Whimbrel
Baird's Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Sedge Wren
Northern Shrike
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

TALBOT
Eared Grebe
White Ibis
Ross' Goose
Mississippi Kite
American Avocet
Baird's Sandpiper
Franklin's Gull
Alder Flycatcher
Painted Bunting
Lapland Longspur

DORCHESTER
Wilson's Storm-Petrel
Black-bellied Whistling Duck
Mississippi Kite
Black-necked Stilt
Purple Sandpiper
Little Gull
Franklin's Gull
Thayer's Gull
Alder Flycatcher
Clay-colored Sparrow

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(continued from page 9, column 3)

The Next 10

WICOMICO
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
- White Ibis
- Whimbrel
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Snowy Owl
- Long-eared Owl
- Alder Flycatcher
- Western Kingbird
- Northern Shrike

SOMERSET
- Ross' Goose
- Marbled Godwit
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Thayer's Gull
- Snowy Owl
- Alder Flycatcher
- Northern Shrike
- Clay-colored Sparrow
- Common Redpoll

WORCESTER
- Roseate Spoonbill
- Wood Strok
- Black-bellied Whistling Duck
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Mississippi Kite
- Swainson's Hawk
- Purple Gallinule
- Mew (Common) Gull
- Sooty Tern
- Ash-throated Flycatcher

MOS Publications Available

Both MD state checklists and the new, improved version of the Maryland Yellow Book are available from Will Tress, MOS Executive Secretary. The checklists are priced (for members) at 10 for $2.00 and 100 for $15.00; and (for non-members) at 100 for $25.00. The new Yellow Book is priced at $2.00 each. For further information, contact Will at 1-800-823-0050.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Patuxent Teacher Orientation

The National Wildlife Visitor Center at Patuxent is offering teacher orientation workshops to help educators become familiar with the educational goals of the Center and with the exhibits, grounds, trails, and other facilities available for class field trips. The workshops will also advise on scheduling field trips. Teachers must attend an orientation workshop before scheduling a trip, unless exempted by participating in a research project. For teachers of grades K-6, workshops will be held on September 18, October 9, and November 10, 1996. Workshops for grades 7-12 teachers are scheduled for October 10 and November 11, 1996. Sessions are in the afternoons and evenings. Call 201-497-5760 to register. Workshops are free and dress is casual. Space is limited, so register early.

Eastern Shore of VA Birding Festival

The Fourth Annual Eastern Shore Birding Festival, sponsored by the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce in partnership with local, state, and federal governments, private businesses, and organizations, aims to promote the awareness and stewardship of the Eastern Shore's natural resources while improving the local economy. This year's Festival dates are October 5-6, 1996. As in previous years, the locale for exhibits, workshops and field trips is the Sunset Beach Inn. For further information, send your name and address to Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Drawer R, Melfa, Virginia 23410.

Bequest From Larry Zeleny

MOS has received a check for $15,526 from the estate of Lawrence Zeleny. Zeleny, a past member of MOS, wrote *The Bluebird*, in 1976, a book which did so much to ensure the continued conservation of this species.

All-County Lists Needed

I would like to compile and present a report to the Yellowthroat on the species that county listers have seen in all 23 counties of Maryland. Please send me a copy of your "All County" lists. It would also be interesting to see which species you are missing in only one or two counties, and which counties are the culprit. As a county lister myself with 77 "closed-out" species, I always find that the final county really forces me to zero in on a species' habitats, ranges, and seasons. A compilation of some of this information should be of interest to all Maryland birders. Please send your list to: Steve Sanford, 8412 Downey Dale Drive, Randallstown Maryland 21133; or e-mail it to tanager@erols.com as text, or as a file in MS Word, WordPerfect, or MS Excel (all pre- Windows 95 versions, please).

Hummingbird Society Formed

A new organization has been formed exclusively for the benefit of hummingbirds. The Hummingbird Society is a nonprofit corporation to encourage international understanding of and conservation of hummingbirds. According to the founder and now President and Executive Director of the Society, Dr. H. Ross Hawkins, the group appears to be the first of its kind, being dedicated exclusively to hummingbirds and having international rather than regional scope. The Society's mission is threefold: 1) Education, primarily through publishing, including The Hummingbird Connection previously published by Hummers, Inc., and preparation of educational materials. 2) Scientific study, with counsel from a Scientific Advisory Board comprised of recognized experts in hummingbirds; 3) Habitat protection, through assessment of needs, opportunities for action, and development of partnerships with other conservation organizations, and advice from a Conservation Advisory Board comprised of nationally recognized leaders in conservation. The Society expects to be funded primarily by membership dues from individuals/families ($20/year), dealers ($40/year), and corporations ($1,000/year); outside the U.S.A., dues are $6 higher. A catalog store offers hummingbird-related merchandise; members receive discounts on all purchases. Because hummingbirds are so widespread in the Western Hemisphere (over 330 species), Hawkins expects membership to be truly international. A Spanish edition of The Hummingbird Connection is even under consideration for members in the Spanish-speaking countries of Central and South America. Interest in hummingbirds is high when compared to other birds, says Hawkins, suggesting that there are many people who love hummingbirds and who will support the mission of The Hummingbird Society. More information can be obtained by writing: The Hummingbird Society, Department M-2, 249 East Main Street/Suite #4, Newark, DE 19711.

Help Protect Important Bird Areas in Maryland

by Daphne Gemmill

You can participate in an important effort to protect the birds of our region. Your knowledge of what birds are found where, when, and how many within Maryland and DC will lead to the designation of Important Bird Areas. We need your help!

An Important Bird Area (IBA) is a site providing essential habitat for one or more species of breeding or non-breeding birds. These sites contain vulnerable, threatened or endangered species, species representative of a biome, or concentrations of seabirds, waterfowl, raptors, shorebirds, waders or migratory landbirds. Based on pre-established criteria IBAs will be assigned to one of four categories—international, continental, national, or state. (See box for criteria)

After sites are designated, local organizations working in partnership with government agencies and private land owners will then develop and implement plans to ensure that these areas are protected. This effort will dovetail with a Partners In Flight effort to develop a comprehensive bird conservation strategy.

IBAs are being conducted worldwide by Birdlife International (formerly International Council for Bird Protection). In the United States the American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Birdlife International's partner, is overseeing the nomination process. ABC is a membership organization dedicated solely to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americans. ABC is working with Partners In Flight state groups and the American Birding Association on international, continental, and national designations and with the National Audubon Society on state designations.

The Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS), which is dedicated to increasing environmental awareness and understanding and to encouraging action at the local level, has agreed to coordinate the submission of IBA nominations for Maryland and DC working with the Maryland Ornithological Society, Partners in Flight, and National Audubon Chapters.

On June 29, 1996, twenty-two members from these organizations met at the Audubon Naturalist Society to develop a preliminary list of IBAs in Maryland and the District and the most knowledgeable person to fill out the nomination form as well as a first draft of state criteria for state IBAs. They developed the following site list:

Monocacy Valley
Sinepuxent Island
Smith Island
Deal Island
THE BAY
North end of the Asseteague Island National Seashore
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and BARC
Cranesville Swamp
Pocomoke Swamp/Nassawingo
Finzel Swamp
Nanjamoy Creek
C and O Canal
Rock Creek and Glover Archibold Parks
Aberdeen Proving Grounds
Pooles Island
Conowingo Dam
Baltmore Canyon
Hart Miller Island
Fort Smallwood
Town Hill
Point Lookout
Patuxent Naval Air Station
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge
Dan's Mountain
Greenridge State Forest
Cary Run
Irish Grove

Here is where you can help. You can:

A. review the international, continental ,and national criteria and the preliminary list and see if we have overlooked any sites;

B. provide any data that you have on these sites to the person completing the nomination form (call 301-652-9188 for the name of the person and their phone number);

In the fall we will be requesting your help to

C. review and comment on the draft state criteria; and

D. make nominations for state IBAs and the most knowledgeable birder who would be willing complete the 4-page nomination form.

At the meeting it was suggested that local MOS chapters and National Audubon Society Chapters may want to consider as chapter projects developing county criteria and designating IBAs at the county level.

If you have any questions about this bird conservation effort contact Daphne Gemmill, ANS representative to ABC at 215 10th Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 or telephone 202-546-3624 (H) up to 10:30 PM.

International Criteria

1. Trumpeter Swan, Piping Plover, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow
2. Endemic Species
3. Biome-restricted
4. 1 % of biogeographical population; more than 20,000 waterfowl, or seabirds; 500,000 shorebirds or 30% of the flyway; 25,000 raptors/season; 10,000 wading birds; or important migratory stopover spot or bottleneck for landbirds.
5. Important bird research area for long-term avian monitoring or research

Continental Criteria

1. Greater than 1% of the global population or species global range
2. More than 50% of global population
3. Not given
4. More than 1% of the continental biogeographical population; more than 15,000 waterfowl or seabirds; more than 100,000 shorebirds or 15% of the flyway population; more than 15,000 raptors/season; more than 5,000 wading birds; or important migratory stopover spot or bottleneck for landbirds.
5. Important bird research area for long-term avian monitoring or research.

National Criteria

1. See attached listing; more than 1% of the continental population or greater than 1% of a distinct population.
2. Not given
3. Site one of the best representative sites of an avian physiographic stratum.
4. More than 1% of the national biogeographical population; more than 10,000 waterfowl or seabirds; more than 20,000 shorebirds or 5% of the flyway population; more than 10,000 raptors/season; more than 2,500 wading birds; or important migratory stopover spot or bottleneck for landbirds.

Important bird research area for long-term avian monitoring or research.

MOS Calendar of Activities
September-November, 1996

September-November

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Hawkwatch. Contact Hugh Mahanes at 301-564-0780 if you would like to observe at Washington Monument State Park Friday through Monday from September through November.

Sunday, September 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Hawkwatch kickoff. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the field north of the lighthouse in the Turkey Point area of Elk Neck State Park, Rt. 272 south of the town of North East. The hawkwatch will be in operation most days from September through the end of November. Call 410-398-0125 for directions and further information.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Black Marsh Wildlands. Wide variety of birds possible in mixed habitat fronting the Chesapeake shoreline in Baltimore County. All-morning trip. Meet at the I-95 & MD 152 Park'n'Ride at 6:30 a.m. For additional information contact the leader, Russ Kovach, at 410-679-0535.

Tuesday, September 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. First in a series of 8 weekly walks to follow the progress of fall migration. Two walking loops, 1.5 hours (and miles) and 2.5 hours, with early departure possible after first loop. Some uneven terrain and steep dikes on second loop. Fall migrant songbirds, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons possible on earlier walks. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Elliot Kirschbaum, at 410-243-1481.

MEETING. Baltimore. "Identifying Fall Warblers" by Pete Webb. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Saturday, September 7

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Phoenix Pond. Easy walking trip on Northern Central Hike & Bike Trail. Good for beginning or intermediate birders to work on land bird identification. Meet 8:00 a.m. at parking lot across from pond. For further information, contact the leader, Michele Melia, at 410-358-5920.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Glen Meadows retirement community on Glen Arm Road (out past Manor Rd.) has a bird walk meeting in their parking lot. Nature trail on wooded hilltop overlooking fields, and perimeter walk by hedgerows and fields. The leader, Steve Simon, will bring a telescope for possible distant viewing. If weather is questionable, call Glen Meadows for information at 410-592-5310.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Fair Hill Natural Resource Management Area. Morning walk for migrant and resident landbirds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the fishermen's parking lot near the covered bridge. May be muddy in spots; waterproof shoes recommended. Call 410-398-0125 for directions and further information.

ANNUAL PICNIC. Harford. The picnic starts at 2 p.m., food will served at 3 p.m., and a short birdwalk follows. Cost is $10 for adults, free for children under 10. Call coordinator Congersky, 410-676-6489, before September 1 for additional information.

Sunday, September 8

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Bluebirds, migrant songbirds, possible hawk flight. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. For further information, contact the leader, Gail Frantz, at 410-833-7135.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Harney Road in Emmitsburg for shorebirds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride at I-70 and MD 66 (exit 35). For further information, contact the leader, Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718.

Tuesday, September 10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Shirley Geddes, at 410-377-6583.

Thursday, September 12

MEETING. Howard. "Life and Times of the Golden Swamp Warbler" by Lisa Petit. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia. For further information, contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Conserving Birds and Biodiversity in Maryland" by Glen Therres. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Lydia Schindler at 301-977-5252.

Saturday, September 14

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Gwynns Falls at Dickeyville. Lovely, level walk through old paved roadbed along unspoiled wooded streamside setting for fall migrant warblers and other delights. Barred Owl possible. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the end of Wetheredsville Road just south of the town of Dickeyville. For further information, contact the leaders, Mark and Leanne Pemburn, at 410-467-4737.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Stoney Forest Demonstration Area. Good wooded area for finding southbound neotropical migrants. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Creswell WaWa, located at the intersection of MD 543 & MD 136. For additional information contact the leader, Mark Johnson, at 410-692-5978.

Sunday, September 15

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Breakfast with the Birds at Cylburn Mansion. Breakfast at 8:00 a.m., bird walk at 8:30 a.m. to cover Cylburn's trails and lawns for migrant warblers, songbirds and possible hawk flight over the city. Reservations for breakfast: Joy Wheeler, 410-825-1204. Bird walk self-guided by the people who attend.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Little Bennett Park. Presidents' Day Opening Walk. Participation of former chapter presidents encouraged - everyone welcome. Resident and migrant landbirds. Bring lunch and join us for a post-birding picnic. 1/2 day. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at King's Park, MD Rt. 121, 1 mile east of I-270 (Clarksburg exit). For further information, contact the leader, Bill Kulp at 301-593-4617.

Monday, September 16

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Huntley Meadows, VA. Primarily migrant land birds and marsh birds. 1/2 day. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Visitor Center parking lot off Lockheed Blvd. Reservations required. For further information, contact the leader, Erika Wilson, at 703-536-3823.

Tuesday, September 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the

footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Josie Gray, at 410-922-1837.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rock Creek Park. Migrant warblers, vireos, sparrows. 1/2 day. Meet at picnic area 18 (1/2 mile below Nature Center on Ridge Road). We will bird this area between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and then move on. For further information, contact the leader, Bill Dobbins, at 202-338-1321.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Washington Monument State Park. This is the peak time of the season for Broad-winged Hawk migration. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the upper parking lot at the park. For further information, contact Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718.

Thursday, September 19

MEETING. Jug Bay. "Where Have The Warblers Gone" by Chan Robbins - a warbler expert for 50 years!. 7:00 p.m. at the two story house at Patuxent River Park. For further information, call 301-627-6074.

Friday - Sunday, September 20 - 22

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Cape May Weekend. 3 days. Hot spot for fall migrants, especially raptors, at the peak of the season. For reservations, lodging information and directions, contact the leader, Bob Augustine, at 301-933-5970.

Friday, September 20

MEETING. Caroline. "Horns Point's Oyster Hatchery Project" by Don Meritt. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, September 21

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Hawks and Warblers Watch. Migrating hawks at top of steep hill to Monument Knob, or next to parked cars at Town Hill. Trip destination determined by wind direction. Whether trip goes or not depends on weather conditions. Call to verify if trip is going. Meal or meals to be purchased en route. Bring snacks. For further information, contact the leader, Steve Sanford, at 410-922-5103, or Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rock Creek Park. Migrant warblers, vireos, sparrows. 1/2 day. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at picnic area 18. (1/2 mile below Nature Center on Ridge Road). For further information, contact the leader, Bill Dobbins, at 202-338-1321.

Sunday, September 22

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Northampton Furnace Trail. For lingering migrant songbirds. Level walking through mixed woods and brushy habitat to edge of Loch Raven reservoir. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Dulaney Valley Road and Chapelwood Lane, 2 miles north of I-695 Beltway exit 27. For further information, contact the leader, Joy Wheeler, at 410-825-1204.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Bethel Wildlife Management Area. Morning walk for land and water migrants at impoundment and woods near Chesapeake City. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in picnic area at Canal Museum off Rt. 286 east of south Chesapeake City. May be muddy; waterproof shoes recommended. Call trip leader Marcia Whitmyre at 410-398-0125 for directions and further information.

Tuesday, September 24

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Bob Wood, at 410-256-6310.

MEETING. Washington. Pot luck dinner. Speaker TBA. 6:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, Hagerstown. For further information, contact Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718.

Thursday, September 26

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Urban Birders' Special - Montrose Park. Migrant warblers and vireos. Coffee and croissants possible. Meet at the sundial at R Street and Avon Place in Georgetown at 7:00 a.m. Bird until 9:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Byron Swift, at 202-333-6890.

Saturday, September 28

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. Joint trip with Wild Bird Center of Towson for
fall migrants and other avifauna. Meet at 8:45 at the park located about 1 mile from the Beltway on Cromwell Bridge Road. For further information, contact the leader, Dot Clark, at 410-823-1840.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Bowers' Farm. Possible sightings include a variety of migrants, from hawks to those confusing fall warblers. Meet at 7:15 a.m. in front of Klein's supermarket in Forest Hill, intersection of MD 23 and MD 24. For additional information contact the leader, Debbie Bowers, at 410-692-9741.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bird Paddle On The Potomac River. Riverine species and migrants. We will use the canoes of the Sycamore Island Club. A waiver of liability will be required for each participant. Limited to 18 people. For reservations and information, contact the leader, David Winer, at 301-229-8963.

Sunday, September 29

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Layhill Park. Sparrows, woodland and field-edge birds. Wear waterproof boots, long pants. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at first available parking space on left after pulling into park. Limited to 8 people. For further information, directions and reservations, contact the leader, Howard Youth at 301-770-7504.

Tuesday, October 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Dot Gustafson, at 410-377-4120.

MEETING. Baltimore. "Breeding Exotic Birds at the Zoo" by Steve Sarro, aviculturist at the Baltimore Zoo. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Pennyfield Lock. Later migrating warblers and resident species. 1/2 day. Meet at Pennyfield at 7:30 a.m. Reservations not required. Umbrellas optional. For further information, contact the leader, Don Messersmith, at 301-593-5942.

Thursday, October 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Soldiers Delight. With the Natural History Society. For fringed gentians in bloom and other serpentine barrens plants and birds. Meet 1:00 p.m. at Frank's Nursery and Crafts, Reisterstown Rd., 3.5 miles north of I-695 Beltway (I-695) exit 20. . Trip will be canceled if rain, wind, calm, or other weather conditions are judged unsuitable by leader. For further information, contact the leader, Jean Worthley, at 410-374-5370.

Saturday, October 5

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point. Morning walk for migrant and resident landbirds and hawks. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Turkey Point parking lot, south end of Rt. 272 in Elk Neck State Park. Call trip leader Leslie Fisher at 410-658-2427 for directions and further information.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Swan Harbor. Excellent birding area on the Oakington Peninsula in eastern Harford County. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Roye Williams Elementary School, Oakington Road just south of Old Post Road (MD 132). For additional information contact the leader, Glen Hedelson, at 410-836-9355.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Patuxent River State Park. Challenging fall warblers, local migrant landbirds. 1/2 day. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Limited to 10 people. For further information, reservations and directions, contact the leader, Rick Sussman, at 301-774-1185.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Gambrill State Park for fall migrants. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride at I-70 and MD 66 (exit 35). For further information, contact Betty Wolf at 301-824-5391.

Sunday, October 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

Tuesday, October 8

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Matilda Weiss, at 410-337-2732.

Thursday, October 10

MEETING. Howard. "Wild Turkeys in Maryland" by Steve Bitner. 7:45 p.m. at Longfellow Elementary School, Columbia. For further information, contact Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

MEETING. Montgomery. "Sora Rail Research at Jug Bay" (a video & slide presentation) by Greg Kearns. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Lydia Schindler at 301-977-5252.

Saturday, October 12

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Glen. Morning field trip and bird-banding demonstration geared toward the beginning birder. Meet at 7:30 at the mansion house, south end of Wheel Road. For additional information contact the leader, Tom Congersky, at 410-676-6489.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Potomac Shoreline Hot Spots. Dyke Marsh, Belle Haven, G.W. Parkway, Piscataway Creek. Waterfowl, shorebirds and sparrows. 3/4 day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Belle Haven picnic area, south parking lot. Bring scope and lunch. No reservations necessary. For further information, contact the leader, Howard Elitzak, at 703-528-3848.

Sunday, October 13

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet 8:30 a.m. at the front porch of Cylburn Mansion.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Myrtle Grove WMA. 1/2 day. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Children's Farm or 7:30 a.m. at Myrtle Grove. For reservations and additional information, contact the leader, Frank Witebsky, at 301-871-7990.

Tuesday, October 15

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Ruth Culbertson, at 410-825-1379.

Friday, October 18

MEETING. Caroline. "Adkins Arboretum" by Linda Langelo. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Adkins Arboretum Visitors Center.

Saturday, October 19

FIELD TRIP. Harford. All-day trip to Brigantine NWR in New Jersey for a wide variety of migrant shorebirds, waterfowl, and raptors. Meet at the MD 155/I-95 commuter lot (Havre de Grace exit) at 5:30 a.m. Bring lunch. For additional information contact the leader, Randy Robertson, at 410-273-9029.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Fort Frederick and Big Pool for fall migrants. Meet at the Park & Ride located at I-70 and MD 65 near the MVA. For further information, contact Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718.

Sunday, October 20

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Elk Forest Wildlife Management Area and Welch Point Wildlife Management Area. Morning walk for migrant and resident land and water birds at two areas on the north side of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Dunkin' Donuts in the Big Elk Mall, intersection of Rts. 213 and 40 in Elkton. Call trip leader Gary Griffith at 410-392-4491 for directions and further information.

Tuesday, October 22

MEETING. Washington. "300 Years of Bird Art" by Janet Millerson. 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center, Hagerstown. For further information, contact Dave Weesner at 301-432-7718.

Saturday-Sunday, October 26-27

IRISH GROVE SANCTUARY WORKDAY. Irish Grove Sanctuary in Somerset County. The official workday is on Saturday, but a weekend stay is recommended. In addition to the work there is ample time to do some birding at this wonderful site. Sedge Wrens and Short-eared Owls are seen every year. There is no fee charged for the overnight stay and Saturday dinner is provided. Please contact Dotty Mumford at 410-849-8336 to let her know that you are coming.

Saturday, October 26

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Upper Deer Creek Valley. Morning tour of rural northwestern Harford County for Red-headed Woodpecker, White-crowned Sparrow, and American Pipit. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Bethel Presbyterian Church, 1/4-mile west of Madonna Road on MD 23. For further information, contact the leader, Dennis Kirkwood, at 410-692-5905.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rachel Carson Conservation Park. This beautiful undeveloped park along the Hawlings River near Brookeville features old fields, hedgerows, ponds and spectacular woodlands. We'll look for woodpeckers, sparrows, and early waterfowl. 1/2 day. Meet at 7:30 a.m. For further information and where to meet, contact the leader, Rob Gibbs, at 301-253-6903.

Sunday, October 27

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lower Frederick County. Wintering and resident sparrows, finches. 1/2 day. Meet on shoulder of Lilypons Road at nursery entrance at 7:30 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Paul Pisano, at 703-685-3790.

Friday, November 1

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Waggoner's Gap. Joint ANS trip. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Kerrie Kirkpatrick, at 703-560-4950.

Saturday, November 2

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Havre de Grace ducks. Scan the waters of the

head of the bay from the Havre de Grace Promenade for early ducks and other waterbirds; tour the exhibits in the Havre de Grace Decoy Museum (admission charge). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Millard Tydings park yacht basin parking lot, off Commerce Street in Havre de Grace. Bring a scope if you can. Call 410-398-0125 for directions and further information.

Sunday, November 3

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Susquehanna State Park. Woodpeckers, migrant waterfowl, and winter passerines likely. Meet at 8:00 AM at Rock Run Mill, junction of Rock Run and Stafford Roads. For further information, contact the leader, Les Eastman, at 410-734-6969.

Tuesday, November 5

MEETING. Baltimore. "Maryland's Owls" by Eirik Blom. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion.

Thursday, November 7

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Blackwater NWR. Geese, swans, eagles, Brown-headed Nuthatches. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the visitor center parking lot (US fee area). Bring lunch and scope. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Willem Maane, at 301-229-1628.

Saturday, November 9

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Piney Run Park. Walk the hilly trails around the lake edges for waterfowl and winter land birds. Telescopes recommended. Meet 8:00 a.m. at entrance gate. For further information, contact the leader, Burton Alexander, at 410-381-5574.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Blackwater NWR. All-day trip for possible Horned Grebe, Snow Goose, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and Bald Eagle. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at I-95 & MD 152 (Joppatowne exit) commuter lot. For further information, contact the leaders, Larry and Jean Fry, 410-452-8539.

Sunday, November 10

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Belmont Conference Center, Howard County, MD. Early wintering sparrows, possible raptors. 1/2 day. Meet at 8:00 a.m. Limited to 12 people. For further information and reservations, contact the leader, Mike Bowen, at 301-530-5764.

Thursday, November 14

MEETING. Montgomery. "Birding Madagascar, Reunion & Mauritius" by Daphne Gemmill. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD. For further information, contact Lydia Schindler at 301-977-5252.

Friday, November 15

MEETING. Caroline. Subject TBA by Nick Carter. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, November 16

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Waterfowl Tour. Morning trip along Harford's bay shore in search of waterfowl, including scaup, Redhead, and possible scoters. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the MD 24 gate to the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Webb, at 410-569-0107.

Tuesday, November 19

MEETING. Jug Bay. Topic TBA 7:00 p.m. at the two story house at Patuxent River Park. For further information, call 301-627-6074.

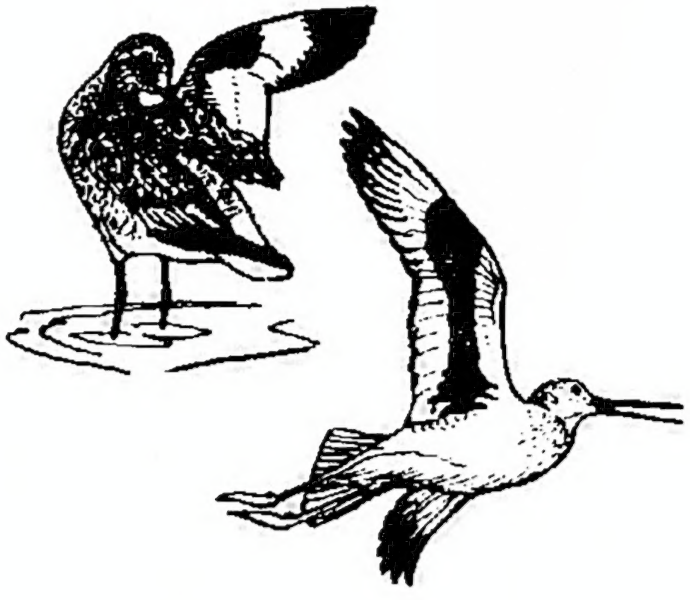
Saturday, November 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Blackwater NWR. All-day trip to see ducks, thousands of Canada and Snow Geese, and possible Bald Eagle or Brown-headed Nuthatch. Meet at the refuge Visitors Center. Birding mostly from cars, one short level walk. Telescopes useful. Bring Lunch. Meet 9:30 a.m. at visitor center. For further information, contact the leader, Taylor McLean, at 410-377-7622.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Owl Prowl. Meet at 4:15 p.m. at the Klein's market in Forest Hill, intersection of MD 23 & MD 24. For further information, contact the leader, Harold Boling, at 410-638-5315.

Sunday, November 24

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Conowingo Eagle Watch. Last year at this time a total of 36 eagles were visible in and around the river. Ducks should also be present. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Fisherman's Park. Bring a scope if you can; dress warmly. Call 410-398-0125 for directions and further information.



MOS License Tag Directory

by Phil Davis

The MOS members below responded to my suggestion to compile a MOS License Tag Directory. Throw a copy of this list in your glove compartment. It will help you identify the birders that show up at the next rarity "event". If you would like to be included in the next edition, please let me know: Phil Davis, 2549 Vale Court, Davidsonville, MD 21035 email: PDavis@OAO.com

Tag	State	Member		Hometown		Chapter
BRD TRKS	PA	Schutsky	Bob	Peach Bottom	PA	Harford
CURLEW	PA	Armistead	Harry	Philadephia	PA	Talbot
GRAYOWL	MD	Cant	Geoffrey	Upper Marlboro	MD	Jug Bay
HAWKOWL	MD	Weigant	Leo	Severna Park	MD	Anne Arundel
MDGULLS	MD	Scarpulla	Gene	Towson	MD	Baltimore
MOS0001	MD	Rowe	Sally	Arnold	MD	Anne Arundel
MOS0009	MD	Kaufman	Harriet	Bel Air	MD	Harford
MOS0010	MD	Kaufman	Ray	Bel Air	MD	Harford
MOS0013	MD	Kulp	Carol & Bill, Sr	Silver Spring	MD	Montgomery
MOS0014	MD	Kulp	Carol & Bill, Sr	Silver Spring	MD	Montgomery
MOS0017	MD	Trever	Bob	Easton	MD	Talbot
MOS0022	MD	Farrell	Jane	Columbia	MD	Howard
MOS0031	MD	Davis	Phil	Davidsonville	MD	Anne Arundel
MOS0035	MD	Nichols	Elizabeth	Middletown	MD	Frederick
MOS0037	MD	Corderman	Mary	Hagerstown	MD	Washington
MOS0052	MD	Haury	Al	Crownsville	MD	Anne Arundel
MOS0054	MD	Shipe	Christine	Rohrersville	MD	Washington
MOS0062	MD	Hannan	Peter	Gambrills	MD	Anne Arundel
MOS0064	MD	Reichwein	Bobbie	Annapolis	MD	Anne Arundel
MOS0065	MD	Metter	Jeffrey & Elayne	Catonsville	MD	Howard
MOS0067	MD	Solem	Jo	Columbia	MD	Howard
OSPREY	MD	Chestem	Martha	Columbia	MD	Howard
OSPREY	PA	Armistead	Harry	Philadephia	PA	Talbot
SISKIN	MD	Klimkiewicz	Kathy	Laurel	MD	—

The copy deadline for the November/December issue of the Yellowthroat isSeptember 25 for chapter activities and October 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for November-January to:

Les Eastman
4034 Wilkinson Rd.
Havre de Grace, MD 21078
W: 410-671-3490
H: 410-734-6969

Please send all other submissions to the editor:

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1261 Cavendish Drive
Colesville, MD 20905
H: 301-989-9035
W: 202-606-5723

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